



OIC Community Connection

"Empowering People... Changing Lives."

May 2017

El Sueño Americano (The American Dream)

Written by Julio A. Ramirez, MSFW Client



(Julio A. Ramirez)

When asked, where are you from? "Mexico" becomes the automatic response from many children who are not old enough to remember details about their home place. Many of them come from small towns torn by violence, drugs, poverty, hunger... and the list goes on. Not having many options; mom, dad, sisters and brothers gather the little things they have and begin a journey to a better future. El Sueño Americano (The American Dream) is a symbol of hope for many families who leave everything behind searching for something better on the other side.

I come from a small town geographically located at the belly of Mexico named Madrid, Colima. I

arrived in Washington State, (Granger to be specific), when I was 14 years old. Throughout the years, I managed to learn the language, graduate high school with honors and even completed some college classes.

Since then agricultural work has been my area of expertise. Not being able to complete my college education, field work became the only work option I had in order to maintain myself. I have worked picking cherries, apples, nectarines, apricots, pears and peaches. I worked as a tractor driver for some years and learned a little on operating a fork lift. I have done many other agricultural jobs which would take too long to list.

I applied for the O.I.C Farmworkers Program in the winter of 2015. At the time I was out of work because apple season had ended. I was under unemployment but wanted to do something other than field work, and O.I.C offered me just that; a program that would give me new employment opportunities. After meeting all the requirements and qualifying for the O.I.C Farmworkers Program I got to work on my Para-Educator goal. I always wanted to work in a school district so the first

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Our mission is to help in the elimination of unemployment, poverty and illiteracy so that people of all colors and creeds can live their lives with greater human dignity.

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El Sueño Americano (The American Dream)

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thing to do was pass the state exam to get certified. I had no work so O.I.C helped me by getting gas in my car and buying me a good amount of groceries to make it through. The farm worker program paid for the required state test to qualify to apply for a Para-Educator position.

I got interviewed by the Granger School District for the high school Para-Educator position and on May 27, 2015 I started new job. I am a few months into my second year working for the district and I really like the job I do. I get to work with students who are in the same position I once was when I was in school. I try to encourage them to work hard and not give up. Compared to agricultural work this job is much easier because it doesn't require as much physical work.

Overall I am very thankful for the help each one of the O.I.C representatives in the Sunnyside office provided me,

(Melida Castillo, Sylvia Weathers, Linda Palomarez, and Alma Caballero. Each one of them gave their best to help me as I am sure they do with each and every person who is enrolled in the O.I.C Farmworkers Program. Thank you.

I would definitely recommend this program to family and friends. This program is perfect for those individuals who want to take a different route in life. There is no shame in working in agricultural work but it's physically exhausting. Some people are one small step away from being able to find a better job. O.I.C is that step. The time and money invested in me was worth it and I'm seeing the results and will surly recommend people to go and apply.

The WIOA Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Program received \$2.9 million (100% funding) from a grant awarded under the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

OIC of Washington's Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Program provides employment and training opportunities to migrant and seasonal agricultural workers and their dependents to develop and enhance skills to be productive, competitive workers and to build careers. Minimum eligibility requirements include: (1) Being a disadvantaged migrant or seasonal agricultural worker, or dependent of one in the last 24 months, and (2) Legally authorized to work in the United States.

Locations

815 Fruitvale Blvd., Yakima, WA
(509) 248-6751

270 9 St. NE #240, East Wenatchee, WA
(509) 665-3715

1616 N. 18 St., #114, Mount Vernon, WA
(360) 416-3505

630 Railroad Ave., Sunnyside, WA
(509) 839-0204

903 W. 3 Ave., Moses Lake, WA
(509) 764-8120

2211 W. Court St., Pasco, WA
(509) 545-0484

Staff Corner



Latasha Larez



Emma Saucedo

A hearty congratulations to Latasha Larez and Emma Saucedo, both of whom will receive their Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree respectively later this month.

Latasha will receive her Bachelor's Degree in Cultural and Ethnic Studies from Heritage University. Emma will receive her Master's Degree in Education from Central Washington University.

Latasha is a Program Assistant with the Henry Beauchamp Community

Center (HBCC), while Emma is the Instructor for the HBCC Adult GED Program, funded by a grant from the Yakima Community Foundation.



OIC Weatherization Inspection Report

The Washington State Department of Commerce conducted site inspections and a file review of production reported as completed between June and November 2016.

Commerce reported: "The quality of the work inspected was very good and all installed measures met or exceeded specifications. OIC staff's efforts made this a successful visit."

OIC Weatherization staff contacted during the monitoring visit included Bob Ponti – Program Director, staff members Joe Sanchez and Marcy McDonald, and an assist from Olivia Gutierrez, agency Program Evaluation Specialist.

Congratulations on a job well done.



Health & Wellness Corner

May is Global Employee Health & Fitness Month



Do You
Get **30 Minutes**
of Moderate Physical Activity
Every Day?
IT IS EASY & SIMPLE

EXAMPLES OF MODERATE AMOUNTS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



Washing & Waxing a Car (45-60 minutes) • **Washing Windows or Floors** (45-60 minutes) • **Gardening** (30-45 minutes) • **Wheeling Self in Wheelchair** (30-40 minutes) • **Pushing a Stroller** (1.5 miles in 30 minutes) • **Raking Leaves** (30 minutes) • **Walking** (15 minutes/mile) • **Shoveling Snow** (15 minutes) • **Stairwalking** (15 minutes) • **Playing Volleyball** (45 minutes) • **Playing Touch Football** (30-45 minutes) • **Basketball (Shooting Baskets)** (30 minutes) • **Bicycling** (5 miles/30 minutes) • **Dancing Fast (Social)** (30 minutes) • **Water Aerobics** (30 minutes) • **Swimming Laps** (20 minutes) • **Basketball (Playing Game)** (15-20 minutes) • **Jumping Rope** (15 minutes) • **Running** (10 minutes/mile) • **Wheelchair Basketball** (20 minutes)

Program Locations

Education & Employment Assistance

Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Program

Provides employment and education assistance to Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers.
815 Fruitvale Blvd.
Yakima, WA
(509) 248-6751 ext. 170

Additional locations:

Mount Vernon (360) 416-3505
Moses Lake (509) 764-8120
East Wenatchee (509) 665-3715
Sunnyside (509) 839-0204
Pasco (509) 545-0484

WIOA Youth Program

Provides education & employment training to youth 14 – 24 years old
815 Fruitvale Blvd.
Yakima, WA
(509) 248-6751

Additional location:

Ellensburg (509) 962-8098

YouthBuild Yakima

Provides hands-on training to start a career in construction along with the opportunity to attain a GED or other certification.

Ages 16-24.
815 Fruitvale Blvd.
Yakima, WA
(509) 248-6751

Energy Assistance

Provides energy assistance in:

Yakima

1419 Hathaway St.
Yakima, WA
(509)452-7145

Grant and Adams Counties.

903 W. 3rd Ave.
Moses Lake, WA
(509) 765-9206

Food Bank

Provides emergency food assistance.

1419 Hathaway St.
Yakima, WA
(509) 452-7145

Henry Beauchamp, Jr. Community Center

Provides a variety of services aimed at fostering self-sufficiency and dignity for children, youth and families
1211 So. 7th St.
Yakima, WA
(509) 575-6114

The Prosperity Center

Provides financial education and credit, housing and small business counseling.

903 W. 3rd Ave.
Moses Lake, WA
(509) 765-9206 ext. 250

Weatherization Services

Provides home weatherization services.

1419 Hathaway St.
Yakima, WA
(509) 452-2555



Since its inception in 1971, OIC of Washington has been and continues to be dedicated to helping thousands of individuals improve the quality of their lives.

OIC provides services through five major areas including community and emergency services, education and employment training, weatherization, youth services and financial education.

It is OIC's desire to afford a second chance to individuals and families with multiple life challenges.

OIC Cinco de Mayo

When: Friday, May 5, 2017

Where: OIC of Washington School Grounds
1001 S. 9th Ave., Yakima

Time: Exhibit Viewing 11am – 1pm
Lunch Noon to 1pm

Free for the community. For more information, please call (509) 248-6751



OIC of Washington

Headquarters

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Yakima, WA 98902

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Find us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/OICofWA/

www.yvoic.org

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About OIC of Washington

Since its inception in 1971, OIC of Washington's vision has been to help in the elimination of unemployment, poverty and illiteracy so that people of all colors and creeds can live their lives with greater human dignity. We work to afford a second chance to families and individuals with multiple life challenges such as housing, education, gang culture, or lack of skills by enabling them to complete their high school education, attend higher education, enter a branch of military service, or receive vocational and employment training through program services.

OIC of Washington provides services through five major areas including community and emergency services, education and employment training, weatherization, youth services, and financial education. For more than 40 years with federal, state, local and community partnerships, we are proud to have helped Washington residents become self-sufficient through our programs including job skills training, high school equivalency attainment, energy assistance, food assistance, new homes for low-income families, weatherization of homes and more.

OIC has and continues to be dedicated to help thousands of individuals improve the quality of their lives. Through innovative collaborations and partnerships, we look forward to many more years of making our vision for the underserved population a working reality throughout the State of Washington.

**OIC of Washington:
Empowering People... Changing Lives**



OIC OF WASHINGTON

815 Fruitvale Blvd.
Yakima, WA 98902

